

NEWS and VIEWS From The CAPITAL of ARIZONA

(Issued by Arizona News Bureau)

Promptly upon receipt of news from Washington that Mrs. Woodrow Wilson was dead, Governor George Hunt, on behalf of the people of Arizona, wired condolences to the president and ordered the offices at the capitol closed half a day. Messages of sympathy were also sent by the mayor of Phoenix and many other Arizonans.

In dismissing the personal injury suits of Mauro Ruiz and Clay Morrell against the city of Phoenix, Superior Judge J. C. Phillips of Maricopa county held that the city is immune from suit except on valid contracts. This immunity is guaranteed not only by the state law, but by the municipal charter, and is enjoyed by other incorporated cities. A city is part of the sovereign state, and it is an ancient rule of law that the sovereign cannot be sued. In 1913 the legislature passed a law modifying this somewhat. The state of Arizona can be sued now with the consent of its officials, but no judgment can be paid till the legislature makes a special appropriation for the purpose. The cases of Ruiz and Morrell have been appealed to the supreme court.

On the ground that the proposed law to divide Gila county, and create the new county of Miami, is purely local legislation, does not affect the state as a whole, and cannot be passed up to the voters of the entire state, Norman J. Johnson, Gila county attorney, has filed in the superior court at Phoenix an application for an injunction to prevent Secretary of State Sidney P. Osborn from placing the number and title of the measure on the ballot. A temporary restraining order was issued. The proponents of Miami county will make a determined fight to have the measure passed on by the people in November.

In spite of the war in Europe the Glendale school district was able to dispose of \$14,500 worth of 5 per cent bonds to a Denver house at par. This completes the sale of a \$25,000 issue voted a year ago.

State agents for the big life insurance companies say that their concerns will not be seriously affected by the European war. It is true that thousands of their policyholders may be killed in battle, but when their rates were fixed, war and every other contingency that takes human life were taken into consideration. All the companies have ample reserves to cover any possible losses and the European securities they own are such as cannot be affected permanently, though their market value may decline temporarily. It may be necessary, however, for the companies to reduce their dividends.

The Phoenix camp of the Spanish-American War Veterans and the Phoenix Rifle club have offered their services as home guards in case of trouble with the Mexican population.

It is now expected that there will be at least fifty entries in the Los Angeles-Phoenix motorcycle race next November. No less than \$1500 will be distributed in prizes. The first prize will be \$600 in cash and a silver cup.

Arrangements have been made for the supervisors and road superintendents of Yuma and Maricopa counties to meet at Agua Caliente September 19 and 20 for the purpose of discussing plans for improving that portion of the Los Angeles-Phoenix race course lying in Arizona. It is reported that the course is in bad condition nearly all the way from Yuma to Arlington.

It was thought that the present supreme court justices would have no opposition for re-nomination within their own party, but Judge John J. Hawkins of Prescott has notified the secretary of state that he will be a candidate at the democratic primaries. Recently the Northern Arizona Bar association held a special meeting and endorsed Judge Hawkins for the place on the federal supreme bench which was left vacant by the death of Justice H. H. Lurtan.

A number of Arizona cities and towns are interested in the success of a bill introduced last week in the senate by Senator Mark Smith. It is to make legal the sale of irrigation water, at regular rates, to cities and towns under federal and Indian reclamation projects. As the reclamation law now stands, no one can purchase water for more than 160 acres. Cities and towns were wholly overlooked when the measure was drawn. Municipalities under projects have been buying water under tentative arrangements with the reclamation service. If the bill passes, permanent contracts can be entered into.

On the first day of August there were 37,893 registered voters in Arizona and the outlook was that there would be nearly 60,000 before the final closing of the books for the November election. The 37,893 were divided among the fourteen counties as follows: Apache, 604; Cochise, 843; Coconino, 1425; Gila, 3990; Graham, 388; Greenlee, 2235; Maricopa, 8701; Mohave, 1065; Navajo, 1505; Pima, 2378; Pinal, 1365; Santa Cruz, 596; Yavapai, 3904; Yuma, 1936.

As head of the American Red Cross society in Arizona, Governor Hunt has received an appeal for contributions to send a hospital ship to Europe. Contributions can be sent direct to the society at Washington or through the Governor.

The first cotton to mature in Arizona this season came from the ranch of Carl Young, in the Yuma valley.

Fire Chief Peter Sullivan has issued an order that all alleys in Phoenix must be kept scrupulously clean as a means of lessening fire risk.

The corporation commission has issued a formal order permitting railroads to haul free of charge the household goods of employees compelled by their duties to move from one place to another.

State Game Warden G. M. Willard has granted the Crystal Springs Trout company permission to strip trout in Oak creek of 250,000 eggs. The company intends to raise trout on a commercial scale in Skull valley, Yavapai county, and ship them to all parts of the southwest. This is the first enterprise of the kind in Arizona.

Events of Interest From Washington

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Many people who cannot understand the war enthusiasm in the different European countries ought to refresh their own war of "Watchful waiting time." Very recently the United States was ablaze with enthusiasm for war, and the government held it off with difficulty.

On a former occasion, President McKinley stood as a check to this same war spirit, and only let loose the guns of battle when our justification to take up arms against the enemy had been fully established. Americans who are wondering whether Europe has gone crazy should recall their own excited mental condition when the question of war or peace confronted the United States.

Our Army and Navy

Contracts have been assigned for three new dreadnaughts for the United States navy. These new instruments of warfare

will be forty-one feet longer and of 4500 tons greater displacement than any now in the United States service. It may be that before Europe gets through that the question of what country has the greatest navy will be settled, as our chances for first place are very good. About the same time that the contracts were let for the new dreadnaughts, Major General Leonard Wood submitted his annual report to the Secretary of war. It shows that the actual strength of the army is 4,306 officers and 80,000 enlisted men scattered over the world.

The General declares that to maintain the force in the United States for even a small expedition in police work of the department that it is vitally important that the regular army be substantially increased.

President Sees Two Moons

The Washington papers gave considerable prominence to the big chief Two Moons, of the northern Cheyenne tribe, living in the Tongue River country, in Montana. The Commissioner of Indian affairs took Two Moons to see the President. Would it not have been more interesting had the scribes featured the

fact that the President saw Two Moons, which is more significant than seeing a single moon, and would have made renown for Mr. Wilson as a competitor on the man who saw:

"Two moons rise over the city, When there ought to have been but one."

Old Two Moons was a conspicuous figure in the Custer massacre, and can talk the Indian sign language.

The Reclamation Fund

A fund of about \$0,000 has been accumulated through the sale of public lands which under the old law is in the hands of the interior department for expenditure in reclamation projects without Congressional limitations. Congress recently became somewhat jealous of this method of expenditure, and the house provided that all expenditures in future should be limited to appropriations made from the reclamation funds by Congress. Representatives from public lands states have vigorously opposed such a change, but the powerful Democratic leader Underwood with his southern Democrats, are having their own way.

Naval Lines to South America

The probabilities are that the United States will carry out the plan suggested by the Secretary of the Navy and established naval lines to this effect, and it has recently passed the Senate.

Eastern Railroads Lose

Sandwiched in among the news on the back pages has appeared the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in reference to the application of the eastern railroads for a five per cent increase in freight rates. The application was made by the railroads four years ago, and the decision is in effect a denial of the petition of the roads, although permission for increased rates on some commodities in parts of the territory involved have been granted. In New England in the trunk line territory everything has been denied. It is estimated that the average increase will amount to one and one-half per cent, adding about \$15,000,000 to the annual freight revenues of the eastern railroads. The poor old railroads may not have gotten what they deserve in this case, but they have run the country so long that no branch of the government appears to be courageous enough to stand up for them.

Western Roads After More Coin.

Increase in freight rates on all the railways west of the Mississippi river are being prepared for submission to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Managers of the western lines, according to the best information in official circles, are prepared to contend that they need more revenue to meet the increasing expense of operation and to point out that their lines are in even greater need of relief than the eastern lines because of necessarily longer hauls and less density of population.

The Republican Chairman.

As the fall elections grow nearer, it is evident that there is to be a spirited contest in every part of the United States where there is a "fighting chance" to turn the fortunes of battle one way or the other. Naturally the South is undisputed Democratic territory, and although the Democrats have a big majority in Congress at the present time, the members of that party who are managing political affairs have rather marveled at the strategic skill displayed by the new chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee. It has developed that the minority members of the House had a definite idea of what they were doing when they chose Congressman Frank P. Woods, of Iowa, to conduct their campaign. Mr. Woods is

a quiet political worker, and now that the campaign is on, the Democrats are awakening to the fact that while they supposed nothing was being done, that Chairman Woods had been building bonfires under them, and they are therefore put to the necessity of bestirring themselves in order to escape the conflagration, Woods has dispensed with all the brass bands, and if the gains that the Republicans confidently predict are realized in the November elections, then the reason will be because of the new methods produced by the Iowa political leader.

"A Device Of The Devil."

Among the "mortuary tables" dug out by Representative Fowler of Illinois, in the support of the belief that "the automobile is a device or the devil," he showed that 1613 persons were killed by automobiles is greater than those resulting from explosions, electricity, lightning, elevators and asphyxiation.

Time Waits On Art.

Art appears to be slow-moving, particularly if the experience of the government with the contractor of the Grant Memorial is a fair illustration, although the time has long since expired when this memorial should be completed, the sculptor has asked for and received a three years' extension, in which to complete the memorial that stands near the Capital in Washington. This work was authorized in 1901.

Artist Ziem's Queer House.

Ziem, the artist, was a queer character. He lived in a house at the top of the Rue Lepic, on Montmartre. His house was his castle in the literal sense of the word. It was difficult to obtain admission, for the painter had an upper window out of which he always looked when the bell rang and interrogated his would be visitors. He had a basket which he let down by a cord to receive packages or messages, and he slept in a wonderful swinging bed. His house was a veritable museum, illuminated Persian manuscripts being part of his collection. Some of these were worth thousands of francs, but it was impossible to persuade him to sell any of them. In place of a newel post on his stairway stood the prow of a gilded gondola, and, closely immured in his studio, he painted pictures of Venice and bade defiance to all who came to disturb his peace.

Intimations.

No member of the British parliament is permitted to say bluntly and directly that another is drunk, but he may hint at the fact in periphrase, as when Mr. Gladstone, replying to an unconventional speech of Disraeli's, remarked, "The right honorable gentleman has evidently had access to sources of inspiration that are not open to me." A violent scene was caused in the parliament of Victoria, Australia, by a labor member saying of a legal colleague, "The honorable and learned gentleman was once called to the bar, and he has since gone frequently without being called." The angry barrister retorted, "You tea drinking skunk!" Eventually both withdrew and apologized.

Superstition of the Turks.

The superstition of the Turks is nowhere so apparent as in their fear of the "evil eye." Jugs placed around the edge of the roof or an old shoe filled with garlic and blue beads (blue glass balls or rings) is a sure guard against the illusion. Whenever a pretty child is playing upon the street the passerby will say, "Oh, what an ugly child!" for fear of inciting the evil spirit against its beauty. The peasant classes in Turkey are of course the most superstitious because they are the most ignorant. They have no education whatever and can neither read nor write.

His Last Name.

A gentleman once asked a lad what was his last name. "Johnny," replied the boy. "Well, what is your full name?" "Johnny Brown, sir." "Well, how can Johnny be your last name?" "Because, sir, when I was born by name was Brown, and Johnny wasn't given to me until I was 5 month old."

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